

HONORING YVONNE DESOUSA
UPON RECEIPT OF THE GIRL
SCOUT GOLD AWARD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a young woman in my district, Yvonne Desousa.

Yvonne will receive the Girl Scout Award on August 3, 2009. For her project, she put together sewing squares decorated by younger girl scouts for children at Huntington Hospital. I wish to commend Yvonne for her community service.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3326 the Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations Act. This bill makes important investments to keep the American people safe, strengthen our military, and support our troops.

This bill contains \$636.3 billion for the Department of Defense next year to provide funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, enhance recruitment, address critical equipment needs at home, and, perhaps most importantly, support our troops and their families who give so much in defense of our nation. As a Member of the House Budget Committee, I am pleased that H.R. 3326 is fiscally responsible, for the first time including funding for ongoing needs for the war in Iraq and Afghanistan in the regular budgeting process. The decision to hide funding for our engagement abroad in "emergency" spending led to financial mismanagement, and it ends this year. The bill also calls for additional contracting reform and other efficiencies, while ensuring sufficient support for our men and women in uniform.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army, and the representative of Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, I am proud of our troops who serve our country so bravely. Whether in the Army, Air Force or Navy, the Coast Guard, or the Marines; whether in the National Guard or in the Reserves; each soldier deserves our full support and respect. This bill provides our troops with a 3.4 percent pay raise and recognizes the hardship of stop-loss deployment by providing an additional \$500 per month for involuntary extensions of active duty. It provides significant funding for readiness training and medical care, often overlooked aspects of our military support. Knowing that the mission at home for military families is often critical to the soldier's mission abroad, I am pleased that H.R. 3326 fully funds Family Support and Yel-

low Ribbon programs, as well as providing \$472 million for family advocacy initiatives.

Madam Chair, there is no more important function for Congress than to protect the American people. This bill ensures our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan have the funding and equipment they need, provides support for our troops at home, and improves the health of our entire military. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 3326.

HONORING BRITTANY LEAP'S
FIGHT AGAINST NEURODEGEN-
ERATION WITH BRAIN IRON AC-
CUMULATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and fortitude of a very special and courageous constituent of mine, Brittany Leap; and her mother, Sandy, and father, Richard. In February 2006, Brittany was diagnosed with a debilitating and degenerative disorder—Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation, NBIA.

NBIA is a very rare and devastating neurological disorder that only gets worse over time—resulting in constant muscle cramping, an inability to control one's body, difficulty with speech, a loss of peripheral vision, and even blindness. No cure or specific means of treatment currently exists for NBIA, and scientists are still baffled by the factors that influence the disease.

Imagine waking up one morning having lost the ability to walk, or talk, or even eat. In Brittany's case, however, this is no dream. This is a very real challenge that Brittany faces every day of her life. To make matters worse, one of the few laboratories dedicated to researching her disease is at risk of having to close its doors because of a lack of funding; doors that upon closing will forfeit the hope of Brittany, her family, and the thousands of other people suffering from NBIA, that a cure may one day be realized.

Brittany is determined to continue fighting this disease and the potentially devastating consequences of what will happen if the research to develop a cure is suspended. She is unwavering in her pursuit to raise the funds necessary to keep hope alive, not only for her, but for everyone else with NBIA. Brittany has taken it upon herself, with the help of her loving parents—and so many others across this great Nation—to raise \$250,000 by year's end to keep the search for a cure alive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Brittany and her family and all others with NBIA our heartfelt regards for their efforts to bring an end to this devastating illness, and I ask they give their support in any way possible to help Brittany in her efforts. I am inspired by Brittany's determination and I am honored to bring her story to the floor of this chamber.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Chair, I rise in support of the 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Act. This bill provides \$636.3 billion to fund the defense, military family support, humanitarian assistance and oversight priorities of the American people.

This bill provides the resources to implement President Obama's national security strategy, including the new approach he is taking with respect to Iraq and Afghanistan. The bill also provides funding to support the general quality-of-life needs of our troops and their families. Specifically, the measure provides a 3.4 percent pay increase for military personnel; \$8.3 million in additional funds to compensate personnel subject to "stop loss" requirements; and \$2.6 billion to support military families—including \$472 million for family advocacy programs that help children and families manage the many challenges of military service.

The bill also provides \$29.9 billion for the defense health program, including \$500 million for traumatic brain injury treatments and funds to treat Post-traumatic Stress Syndrome. And finally, the Defense Appropriations Act includes a number of provisions to improve oversight of defense contractors and \$110 million for international humanitarian assistance including foreign disaster and emergency relief assistance.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmarks I received as part of the FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: RDT&E, Army/Medical Technology/Program Element #: 0602787A/Line Item #: 28

Project Name: Understanding Blast-Induced Brain Injury

Amount: \$3,000,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska-Lincoln located at 302 Canfield Administrations Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Description: Most of the head and brain injuries occurring in current combat situations result from roadside explosions, but there is currently only limited understanding of blast-induced traumatic brain injury. This funding

would be used to model how blast waves from explosions cause short- and long-term brain injury to warfighters and to develop devices and equipment to mitigate the damage. This research will lead to devices for improved detection and optimized equipment designs to protect against multiple insults to the brain from the blast impact and blast waves.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 3326, FY10 Defense Appropriations Bill

Account: RDT&E, Air Force, University Research Initiatives, PE 0601102F, Line 2

Project Name: Safeguarding End-User Military Software

Amount: \$1,500,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska-Lincoln located at 302 Canfield Administrations Building, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Description: Military software increasingly is being created by "end-user programmers," who use programming tools such as spreadsheets, military planning systems, and Matlab simulations to create software. This unvalidated software runs critical day-to-day operations and often is not dependable. The funding would be used to develop advanced software engineering safeguards that can be embedded in software programmed by military personnel to help them prevent and detect errors and produce more dependable military systems that save lives and money. Prototype safeguards implementing algorithms and mechanisms will be built and validated through carefully designed studies. These safeguards will be convenient for users and help them reason through the dependability of software as they develop it, protecting programmers and operators from errors and saving millions of dollars in programming development costs.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following in regards to H.R. 3288, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION—NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AVIATION RESEARCH (NIAR) WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

H.R. 3288, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains \$1,000,000 for facilities and equipment to expand the capabilities of its National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) to conduct Advanced Materials Research in support and improvement of its ongoing aviation safety research in the areas of metallic and nonmetallic structures, crashworthiness, and aging aircraft effects. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wichita State University located at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas, 67260.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION—NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AVIATION RESEARCH (NIAR) WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

H.R. 3288, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and

Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains \$1,000,000 for technical personnel, facilities and equipment at the National Institute for Aviation Research to provide a comprehensive education and training initiative for composite airframe maintenance and airworthiness awareness. The entity to receive funding for this project is Wichita State University located at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas, 67260.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION—INTERSTATE MAINTENANCE DISCRETIONARY—CITY OF WICHITA, KS: INTERSTATE 235/US 54 AND I-235/CENTRAL AVENUE INTERCHANGE

H.R. 3183, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains \$750,000 for preliminary engineering and right-of-way costs for the reconstruction of the Kellogg (US-54) and Central interchanges on I-235 in western Wichita. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita, located at City Hall, 455 North Main, Wichita, KS 67202.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION—SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES CITY OF WICHITA, KS: 21ST STREET NORTH RAILROAD OVERPASS

H.R. 3183, the Fiscal Year 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act contains \$500,000 for an elevated roadway overpass along 21st Street North from Broadway to I-135 in order to eliminate the lengthy vehicular traffic delays and vehicle entrapment issues associated with multiple at-grade rail crossings located along this segment of a busy east-west arterial city street. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Wichita located at 1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas, 67260.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, as we enter into the month of August, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the anniversary of The Voting Rights Act of 1965. On August 6, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law. The date marks a pivotal moment in our country's progress in extending equal membership in the political processes to every American. The right to vote is a fundamental principle of all democracies. Yet, in our great nation whose founding fathers and documents boasted of its creation to promote equality, there was a substantial period of history during which minority men and women were barred from that very right. The Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every citizen, but the discriminatory practices of Jim Crow in the antebellum south used taxes, literacy tests, gerrymandering, and language discrimination to prevent Blacks from voting and taking part in the government. Without the right to vote, many African Americans were subject to intolerable injustices and appalling prejudice.

The Voting Rights Act represents a culmination of the great efforts of civil rights organizations and activists to inform the nation of the extensive disenfranchisement taking place

throughout the country. The anniversary of the enactment of this historic law provides an opportunity to acknowledge these activists. Most notably, their tremendous dedication and uncompromising pursuit of equality took the form of peaceful marches from Selma to Montgomery that were met with vicious attacks by state and local police forces. These events caught the attention of the President and Congress, contributing to a commitment to new civil rights legislation to counter the resistance and discrimination laws within the states. The enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 allowed African-Americans across the country to finally have a say in the functioning of the country. Today, I celebrate the anniversary of this law as a reflection of what our country represents: a nation pledged to representing the views, values, and beliefs of all the people it serves.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, it was my hope that this year would mark a turning point in the type and amount of we spend on the Department of Defense. Oregonians know I frequently vote against Defense Appropriations bills as spending too much money for the wrong priorities.

I was pleased to see the traditional military pay raise included, as well as an extension of current stop loss compensation to troops extended tours in 2010. I also continue to strongly support provisions that prohibit permanent bases in Iraq and Afghanistan and torture.

Yet the bill also includes funding for programs that have been outdated since the end of the Cold War two decades ago, and which even the Secretary of Defense would like to terminate. The list of these programs funded here is long and runs into the billions: \$80 million for the Missile Defense, Kinetic Energy Interceptor Program, \$369 million for parts for the F-22 and C-17, an extra \$3 billion for Navy ships, and \$674 million for still more unrequested C-17 planes.

These programs come at the expense of other, more worthy projects and investments. I offered two amendments to the Rules Committee for this bill, both of which would have shifted funding to environmental programs. My first amendment would have shifted \$100 million from the unnecessary Joint Strike Fighter (F-35) Alternate Engine Program and toward the chronically-underfunded Defense Department's Environmental Restoration Program. These programs, responsible for the cleaning of toxic wastes and leftover bombs from all active bases and Formerly Used Defense Sites, will receive less funds than they did last year even though the number of sites needing clean up has increased.